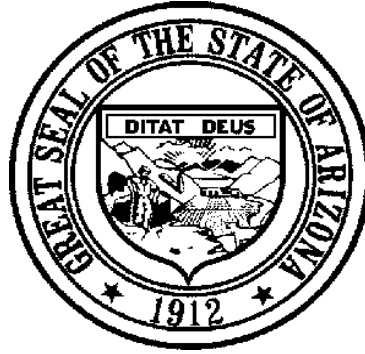


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For Immediate Release:
September 28, 2005
Janet Napolitano,
Governor
Herb Guenther,
Director

NEWS RELEASE

Public Information Office
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Sahuarita Agrees To Settle Excess-Use Violations at Lake Park

The Arizona Department of Water Resources announced today that the Town of Sahuarita has agreed to settle a case involving conservation requirements at the Town's Lake Park through 2008.

The artificial lake is supplied with groundwater and is subject to mandatory conservation requirements contained in ADWR's Third Management Plan for the Tucson Active Management Area. Review by ADWR staff indicated that since 2002 the Lake Park has substantially exceeded its maximum annual water allotment.

In acknowledgement of the Town's willingness to investigate the source of the lake seepage, and to rely entirely on recovered effluent as replacement water, ADWR has agreed to waive half of an estimated \$74,500 in pending civil penalties and attach conditions to the remainder.

The Town has committed to fully offsetting its water use at the Park by recharging effluent generated at the Town's wastewater treatment plant, beginning in 2006, ADWR Director Herb Guenther said.

If the Town meets this target, costs associated with the effluent project can be used to reduce civil penalties assessed at \$125 per acre-foot for violations since 2002. If any violations occur at the Lake between 2006 and 2008, the Town faces fines of \$250 per acre-foot, and no prior-year cost reductions will be allowed.

"The consent order between ADWR and the Town of Sahuarita resolves a contentious compliance case in a way that will enhance local water management efforts," Guenther said. "By recharging an offsetting amount of effluent, the impact on the aquifer is mitigated, and the Town will contribute to the 'safe-yield' management goal of the Tucson AMA."

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